

## THIRD TUESDAY MEETING

June 17, 2008

The Jones County Board of Commissioners met for their Third Tuesday meeting at 6:30 p.m. June 17, 2008, in the Charlotte C. Wilson Conference Room at the Jones County Government Center. Members present were:

Preston Hawkins - Chairman  
David C. Gault – Vice-Chairman  
Larry Childs – District 1 Commissioner  
Mell Merritt – District 3 Commissioner  
Bert Liston – District 4 Commissioner

County Attorney, Frank Childs, was present.

Chairman Hawkins called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.  
(Chairman Hawkins exercises his voting rights in the case of a tie.)

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Comm. Childs requested to amend the agenda to add water base fee's for governmental services as NB #6. Comm. Merritt requested to amend the agenda to add John Mazzola as Visitor #3. Comm. Gault requested to amend the agenda to add grant application for Hitchcock Road as NB #7. Comm. Merritt made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendments as noted. Comm. Liston seconded the motion. Vote- unanimous.

Steve Johnson, Pastor of Bradley Baptist Church, opened with volunteer prayer followed by the leading of the pledge.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Chairman Hawkins asked for clarification on Troy Coons request from the previous meeting, to pave approximately 200 feet of Highway 18 East. Consensus of the Board was for Bobby Waldrop, Public Works Director and Laten Boniol, Assistant Public Works Director, to obtain an estimate on cost to pave approximately 200 feet of Childs Road; the county will be responsible for

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hiring a contractor and the county will grade the road. Mr. Coon will pay for paving. Mr. Coon will obtain the rights of way. Comm. Gault made a motion to approve the minutes from the first Tuesday June 3, 2008, meeting. Comm. Merritt seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. See attachments for specifications.

**VISITORS:**

1. Phillip Sullivan, a resident of Hampton Lakes, requested assistance with the sewer tap on fee. Mr. Sullivan said he contacted Wendell Parker and he verbally told him he would waive his portion of the fees; Mr. Sullivan has no agreement in writing. Consensus of the Board was for Frank Childs, County Attorney, to write a letter to Wendell Parker requesting he waive his part of the sewer tap on fees on behalf of Mr. Sullivan.
2. Sketha Solomon was on the agenda to request permission from the Board to sell concessions at Haddock Park for profit but was not present. Comm. Gault discussed a previous request from Tom Massengale to sell refreshments to benefit Haddock Park softball leagues. The motion was to allow Tom Massengale and his assistants to sell refreshments to benefit Haddock Park softball leagues and to place a sign that no vendors are allowed on the premises without approval of the Jones County Board of Commissioners. No sign has been obtained at this time. Comm. Gault requested for Michael D. Underwood, County Administrator, to obtain a sign and post it at Haddock Park as noted. Consensus of the Board was not to allow vendors to sell at Haddock Park for personal profit.
3. John Mozzola requested the Board's permission to coordinate a baseball and softball tournament at the Highway 18 Complex. Comm. Merritt made a motion to allow the leagues to take the gate collections, Mr. Mozzola will pay a \$300 deposit to be refunded when the fields are cleaned, Bobby Wood will provide concessions and the chalking of the fields are funded by the collections at the gate. Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Michael D. Underwood, County Administrator, gave the Board an update on Hampton Lakes Roads. Tim Pitrowski, Planning and Zoning Director, sent a letter to the road contractor, Mr. Womack, for Hampton Lakes informing him of the requirements by the county for acceptance of the

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roads; there has been no reply at this time. Consensus of the Board was to postpone the acceptance of Hampton Lakes roads.

2. The Board discussed the acceptance of Legacy Farms Subdivision roads. Tim Pitrowski, Planning and Zoning Director, and Laten Boniol, Assistant Public Works Director, said the roads have passed inspection and are ready for acceptance by the Board. Comm. Childs made a motion to accept the roads in Legacy Farms Subdivision. Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous.

At this time Chairman Hawkins moved to Old Business #2.

2. The Board discussed the acceptance of Hudson Plantation roads. Consensus of the Board was to postpone Hudson Plantation roads until the roads are ready.

At this time Chairman Hawkins moved to New Business #3.

3. Freddie Wiggins, Water Superintendent, and Joseph Hurley, Vice President of Woodard and Curran, gave the Board a handout and proposal for a SCADA system for the water department. Mr. Hurley proposed to provide preliminary engineering services in order to study the current facilities and operations and develop a Basis of Design Report that will define a path forward using current technology. The work will include a radio path study that will define what will be required to eliminate the phone lines. They also proposed to perform engineering services to define SCADA systems for the water plants, booster stations and storage tanks. Consensus of the Board was to postpone the SCADA System; no date was set. See attachments for specifications.
4. Michael D. Underwood, County Administrator, presented the Board the Resolution for Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Referendum for their approval. Comm. Gault made a motion to adopt the resolution to reimpose, levy and collect a sales and use tax for Jones County, conditioned upon approval by a majority of the qualified voters residing within Jones County voting in an election thereon to be held September 16, 2008; to authorize the issuance of general obligation debt of Jones County; to authorize the execution of an intergovernmental contract or contracts between Jones County and the City of Gray; and for other purposes. Comm. Liston seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. See attachments for specifications.
5. Michael D. Underwood presented the Board an Enter Governmental Agreement for their approval. The agreement will allocate 19.2% of the SPLOST to the City of Gray and 80.8% allocation of the SPLOST to

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Jones County. Comm. Merritt made a motion to authorize Chairman Hawkins to sign the intergovernmental agreement between Jones County and the City of Gray. Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. See attachments for specifications.

6. Comm. Childs proposed waiving water base fee's for governmental services. Comm. Childs made a motion to waive the water base fee of \$12.50 per month for public parks and the \$18.50 per month water base fee for Haddock Park. Comm. Liston seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous.
7. Comm. Gault and Freddie Wiggins, Water Superintendent, met with Senator Grant on obtaining a grant for the water well lines for Hitchcock Road. Floyd Comer, with the Jones County Health Department, ran a sample of the wells on Hitchcock Road several years ago. All of the wells tested, which were a total of 10, were contaminated. They tested positive for **coliform** with three contaminated with E-coli; this is considered an emergency situation. Mr. Wiggins will write the grant for laying the water line and Representative Cole has agreed to assist and sign the grant request. Comm. Gault said the well on Highway 22 is failing and not recharging itself. Comm. Gault requested having an executive session or work shop to discuss monies available for the well. Freddie Wiggins said there is a 2 % loan available through GEFA and the county can apply for a \$200,000 grant to assist with the water wells. To apply for the grant, an engineering stamp and last year's audit will need to be obtained. Freddie Wiggins asked for the Board to consider the purchase of the Cannery in Haddock.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. During the June 3, 2008, meeting Michael D. Underwood, County Administrator, discussed his concerns with insurance benefits being offered to retirees without approval from the Board. Leila Brittain, Clerk of the Board / Human Resource Director, located the audio where she discussed the retirement insurance benefits in detail she has also located the handout she gave to the Board and to Department Heads. Ms. Brittain explained that there is a limit of 10% of the insured group being retirees. There was also concern for the increased workload requiring another part time employee to track the benefit. Ms. Brittain explained that currently, less than a part time employee handles insurance for the 300 plus employees and 174 full time insured. With a limit of 10%, at the current numbers, we wouldn't have more than 17.4 retirees and it shouldn't require an additional person to track retirees. Comm. Childs

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said he would like to schedule a work session to discuss retirement insurance benefits again. Judge Mike Greene would like to attend the meeting with the commissioners; he had a conflict with his schedule at the current meeting and was unable to attend. Ms. Brittain explained the advantage of the new policy being one that encourages new hires to stay with the county because of the strong retirement policy. It also encourages those ready to retire, but postpone retirement due to the expense of health insurance prior to Medicare, to retire early. According to the policy, you must have 15 years of continuous service. Employees with that amount of service to the county, normally, are close to reaching their maximum pay grade. The replacement with a new hire should theoretically reduce compensation and can help with the funding of the benefit. Consensus of the Board was to postpone the retirement insurance benefits for a Work Session on August 5, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

2. Hudson Plantation was discussed earlier in the meeting.
3. Comm. Gault said during the April 5, 2008, meeting Consensus of the Board was to have a work session to discuss Impact Fees. Comm. Gault said foreclosures are up and the economy is bad. Comm. Gault feels the Board needs to take a serious look at how impact fees will affect the economy. He explained that he just doesn't feel now is the right time for them. They will increase taxes for all property owners once revaluations are done to account for the new sells price with the impact fee added to them. Comm. Merritt had requested a work session to study the information more closely. Concerns with the amount of time that passes before having this meeting may make it necessary to pay the study fees again if the information becomes outdated. Consensus of the Board was for Michael D. Underwood, County Administrator to schedule a meeting in August 2008, to discuss Impact Fees.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

1. Linda Sibley, Chief Appraiser, said the Board of Equalization has requested to be paid through payroll and have taxes deducted from their payroll check. Michael D. Underwood said he has discussed this with payroll and the Board of Equalization will need to fill out a W-9 form. They would be paid in the same manner as the Tax Assessor Board. No action was taken at this time. Linda had IRS publication handouts available on the conditions required to decide if they meet the test for employees versus contract labor. Ms. Brittain stated that her concern was with the other Boards in the county. Not all of them are being paid in the same manner as the Tax Assessor Board.

2. Bobby Wood, Parks and Recreation Director, said the S-10 truck is not working and requested to buy a Dooley Ford Truck from Bobby Bonner, Director of Building and Maintenance; this is Mr. Bonner's personal vehicle. Mr. Wood needs a truck large enough to pull a trailer to transport tractors to the county parks for maintenance. Comm. Childs made a motion to purchase a Dooley Ford Truck from Bobby Bonner for Recreation not to exceed \$15,000, subject to Michael D. Underwood obtaining the blue book value and having a mechanic inspect the truck. Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous.
3. Freddie Wiggins, Water Superintendent, discussed the fact that the Upper River Booster Pump is scheduled to be delivered on August 22, 2008. The erection of the elevator tank is scheduled to start after July 4, 2008.
4. Michael D. Underwood, County Administrator, said he is not ready for the Budget Workshops and requested to postpone them.

#### **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

**Comm. Childs:** Comm. Childs said Bill Eller with Building and Maintenance was injured today at Liberty Park; Mr. Eller fell from a ladder. Comm. Childs said he has received a price for fence of \$10 a foot; we are going to need approximately \$4,000 in just two areas. Comm. Childs proposed using \$4,000 from SPLOST to pay for two temporary laborers to help assist Bobby Bonner, Building and Maintenance Director, for the work needed at Liberty Park. Comm. Childs made a motion to authorize Bobby Bonner, Building and Maintenance Director, to hire two part time laborers for the work at Liberty Park not to exceed \$4,000 to be paid by SPLOST. Comm. Liston seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. Ms. Brittain requested Frank Childs' legal opinion on the labor from the SPLOST fund. This would be similar to the construction of waterlines being paid from SPLOST as part of the capital project costs.

**Comm. Gault:** Comm. Gault proposed obtaining approximately five acres to create a park on Highway 11. Comm. Gault also said it is the state law that all employees who take a county vehicle home should be assessed three dollars per day onto their W-2. Comm. Gault said he has seen county vehicles being driven around after work hours and he feels the county should not be paying for gasoline. Comm. Gault said non essential employee's who drive county vehicles should park the county vehicles at the work place and drive their personal vehicles home. Michael D. Underwood said he will have all Department Heads to submit a list of personnel who drive county vehicles.

**Comm. Merritt:** Comm. Merritt said that he has received phone calls complementing on how good Griswoldville Road looks.

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**Comm. Liston:** Comm. Liston will discuss his comments in the executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Comm. Merritt made a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss land acquisition. Comm. Childs seconded the motion. Vote - unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

**RECONVENED:**

Comm. Childs made a motion to reconvene the regular meeting. Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. The meeting reconvened at 8:59 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Comm. Liston made a motion to adjourn. Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**APPROVED**

Jones County Board of Commissioners

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Preston Hawkins, Chairman

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David C. Gault, Vice-Chairman, District 2

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Larry Childs, District 1 Commissioner

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Mell Merritt, District 3 Commissioner

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Bert Liston, District 4 Commissioner

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Leila Brittain, Clerk of the Board